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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOVIET ARMY TACTICS

SOVIET ARMY TACTICS

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SOVIET ARMY TACTICS

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Introduction

the 459th Mortar Regt

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elements of the 20th Mtrz Regt and the 175th Tk Regt, all three of which were components of the 25th Tk Div.

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1. General Data on Signal Operations

information on the organization and operations of various intra-regimental radio nets as well as division artillery and divisional nets.

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a. Personnel

50X1 there were about three to five 1st-class radio operators, two or three 2d-class operators and an unknown larger number of 3d-class radio operators in the regiment. 1st class operators as those able to send and receive at least 18 word-groups per minute, 2d class as being able to send at least 16, and 3d as being able to send 12, considerable stress was placed on the training of radio operators in the regiment to be highly proficient in CW operation.

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b. Equipment

Within the regiment there were ten radios of the A7A or A7B type and nine radios of the RBM or RB type. These radios were further broken down as follows:

(1) The regimental headquarters had one RBM-1 type radio, which was normally mounted on the regimental commanders jeep, and two RBM type radios, which were set up in the regimental command post.

(2) The regimental school had four RBM-type radios that were used by the School Radio Platoon in training radio operators. Whenever the regiment was in a tactical situation, two of these radios were attached,down to the mortar battalions.

(3) Each mortar battalion headquarters had two A7A or A7B type radios, one of which was used as a reserve battalion headquarters radio to replace one of the battery radios in case of a breakdown. Each mortar battalion also had one RB type radio.

2. Radio Operational Organization in Permanent Winter Quarters

quarters, one of its nine RBM or RB
with the division artillery
illerii Divizii) radio in ORANIENBURG
by measure. For this purpose there was
d to the top of one of the barracks.

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The remainder of the regimental radios were organized into nets only when there was some type of scheduled radio training.

3. Operational Organization in Tactical Situations

a. Types of Nets

50X1 existence of four separate and distinct types of radio nets within the division which were used in tactical situation. (This does not preclude the existence of other nets.) These four types were the division net, the division artillery net, the regimental net and the battalion net.

(1) The Division Net

Concerning the division net, the division artillery CO had at his disposal three RBM-type radios. A second of these radios alternated by use as a spare set, between the division net and the Division artillery CO's own net.

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(2) The Division Artillery Net

Concerning the Division artillery net, one of the three RBM-type sets at regiment acted as the net control station. A second of these sets alternated as a spare set between the division and Division artillery nets. In addition, the AAA Regt, the Howitzer Bn, the Rocket Launcher Bn and the Mtrz Rifle Regt were included in the Division artillery net with his own 459th Mortar Regt.

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the Division artillery net its SOI was established by the Division Chief of Communications. each subordinate station in this net had a signal operations order (organizetsiya Svyazy) included in alert plans which were kept at each regimental headquarters and which had been prepared by the Division Chief of Communications.

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All traffic in the Division artillery net was by CW only.

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(3) Regimental Net of 459th Mortar Regt

it also had its own regimental net, controlled by a net control station, in a tactical situation.

Normally, all traffic on the regimental net was by encoded CW. However, traffic was by microphone and in the clear when the regiment engaged in firing exercises.

One of the three RBM sets at regimental headquarters acted as the net control station in the regimental net. This set was tied in with RB sets, one of which was at each mortar battalion headquarters.

The third RBM set at regimental headquarters was a reserve or auxiliary station. It could be used to either relieve or replace the regimental net control station or relieve or replace the regimental commanders RBM-1 radio which was tied into the Division Artillery net.

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Each subordinate battalion headquarters station had a reserve RBM radio for use in emergency in the regimental net at its CP or headquarters which had been attached from the regimental school.

The SOI for the operation of the Regimental net was worked out by the Regimental Chief of Communications. Prior to any tactical exercise he handed out to each radio operator a radio operations order (Dannyye radiostantsii) which showed the net control station and its call sign (I.E.2VG) and the operator's own call sign (i.e. 6RP.) Call signs varied with each exercise. Also included in this order was the regimental net operating channel and the reserve channel, plus a legend of basic signals (i.e., 666-Air attack, 323-chemical attack, 121-change over to the reserve channel, etc.) These call signals also changed with every signal operations order.

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In addition to the above order, each radio operator in the regimental net, as well as in the division artillery net, had a standard prearranged message code (Peregovornaya Tablitsa, or PT-50 [2]. as it was known). On the front side of this table were shown the authenticating calls of each station, and on the reverse side was a listing of standard encoded messages. For instance; SHCH* S* A* ?, might mean (how do you read me?); R*P*T (Please repeat), etc.

Each radio operator also kept a standard operator's journal (operatnyy zhurnal) in which were recorded the time and text of all transmissions, who traffic was with, the time and types of radiograms, and other items

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(4) Mortar Battalion Nets

Each of the two mortar battalions had its own separate net. Each battalion also had a reserve A7A or A7B which was kept at mortar battalion headquarters to replace any station in the battalion net. Within the battalion, each of the six mortar batteries subordinate to both battalions had one A7A or A7B radio which was tied into the net-control A7A or A7B set of its respective battalion headquarters.

The SOI for the operation of the mortar battalion nets was worked out by the respective mortar battalion Chief of Communications. Battalion net call signs were arbitrarily varied and deliberately followed no logical pattern. all traffic at this level was in the clear since operation of this type of radio was by microphone only.

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possible to tie in all the radios of the batteries into one common net.

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provided that the net control station was also an A7A or A7B.

4. Ciphering and Deciphering of Messages

All CW traffic in the Division artillery net and the Regimental net was enciphered. Since the set of the regimental commander, which was tied into the Division artillery net, and the Regimental net control set were side by side in the regimental CP or headquarters, it was only necessary for the operators of these two sets to jot down the incoming enciphered transmission and pass it to the Regimental Chief of Staff, who did the actual deciphering by the same token. The Regimental Chief of Staff composed any outgoing enciphered radiogram, and the radio operators merely transmitted whatever was handed to them. Thus the operators had no access to the deciphering tables except for some basic signals in the prearranged Standard Message Codes tables. [2].

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When the regimental CO went forward, he would take with him the RBM-1 set which could be mounted in his jeep. He would instruct the reserve radio at regimental headquarters to switch to the Division artillery net in order to receive calls that he also would be receiving. In such cases, any action required in the regimental area could be taken in the absence of the regimental CO. While the commander was forward, he might also instruct the reserve radio to spell him on the division artillery net long enough for him to switch his own set to the regimental net for transmitting directly to the mortar battalion headquarters. Following this, he would return to the Division artillery net.

5. Signal Communications During Firing Missions

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regiment participated in battery, battalion and regimental-level firing problems no information on mortar tactics, dispositions or fire-direction procedures. Furthermore, no specific information on signal communications during such firing. analysis as to how communications were organized, In all instances given in this analysis, wire would be the primary means of communication, with voice radio as an alternate but secondary means. This analysis is informed opinion only. 3.

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50X1 a. Battery Firing As A Unit

Since each mortar battery had only one A7A or A7B type radio it was impossible for a battery to conduct its own firing by using that one organic radio. in extreme cases, a battery might be allocated an additional radio But aside from this case, communication within an individual battery from the CP to the mortar positions was by wire in cases of individual battery firing, while the one battery radio was used for keeping in contact with the parent mortar battalion headquarters.

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b. Battalion Firing As A Unit

When the mortar battalions were engaged in individual battalion firing problems, fire control was normally exercised by wire with radio being used as a standby. For this purpose the mortar battalion CO established two forward OP's on a simulated front line, preferably at each end of the battalion sector of responsibility. At each OP would be a radio set. Battalion CO might place a battery CO at each OP and have the third battery CO at the battalion gun positions. The battalion CO would also establish his OP and fire-direction center someplace between the mortar positions and the two OP's and direct by telephone from this point, the battalion firing as a unit. Wire communications would run from the two battery COs' OP's to the Battalion CO's OP and from there to the battalion mortar positions.

50X1 not know if the battalion mortars would be located in one consolidated position or be split among three separate battery mortar positions some distance from each other. As an alternate means of communication, the Battalion CO would have one of the battery type A7A or A7B sets at his FDC as the net control station a similar set at each of the two forward Battalion OP's and a third set of the same type with the firing units.

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50X1 it was possible for the Division Chief of Artillery to contact the regimental mortar battalions directly. 50X1
if he changed over to the regimental channel 50X1

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50X1 c. Regimental Unit Firing

When the entire regiment was employed to fire as one unit, 50X1
communications would be established in the following manner. The regimental CO would establish two OP's on the front lines and set up his OP and fire-direction center someplace between them and the mortar positions of each mortar battalion. Fire commands would be relayed basically by a wire net laid from the front line OP's to the regimental CO's CP or fire-direction center. From there, it would run back to each of the mortar 50X1
battalion positions. the regimental CO would have both of the mortar battalion CO's at his CP to relay his fire command directions to their respective battalions and to help with the operation of the FDC. in cases of wire failure, such directions would be transmitted by radio.
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In such cases, each front-line OP would have an RB or RBM-type radio for contact with the regimental CO, for relaying instructions to the firing units. The latter, the firing batteries, would have its own A7A or A7B type radio at the mortar positions. There would be a similar set at the regimental CO's OP and undoubtedly one at each mortar battalion.
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Comment 1: See information 50X1
on 25th Tk Div unit exercises.

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Comment 2: This was a printed and standard Soviet Army form.

1 Annex:

Annex A, Chart I - Organization of the Division Artillery Radio Net, 25th Tk Div

Chart II -Organization of the Regimental Radio Net, 459th Mortar Regt, 25th Tk Div

Chart III-Organization of Each Mortar Bn Radio Net of the 459th Mortar Regt, 25th Tk Div

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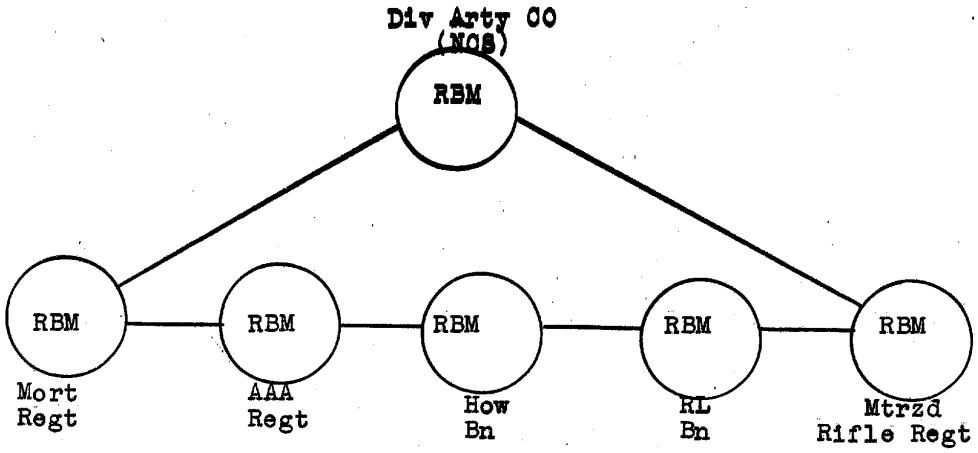
Annex A

Chart I

ORGANIZATION OF THE DIVISION ARTILLERY RADIO NET, 25th TK DIV *



*This sketch does not preclude the existence of other unknown stations in this net.

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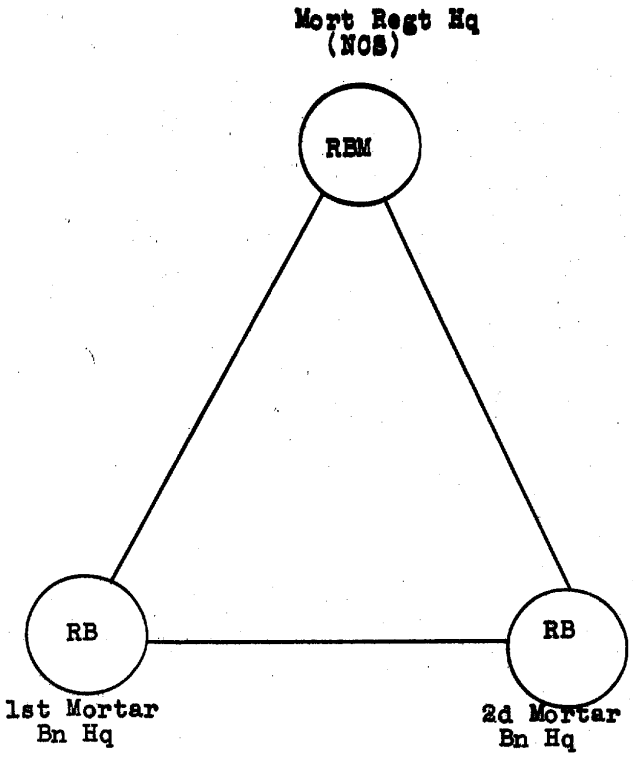
Annex A

Chart II

Organization of the Regimental Radio Net, 459th Mortar Regt, 25th Tk Div



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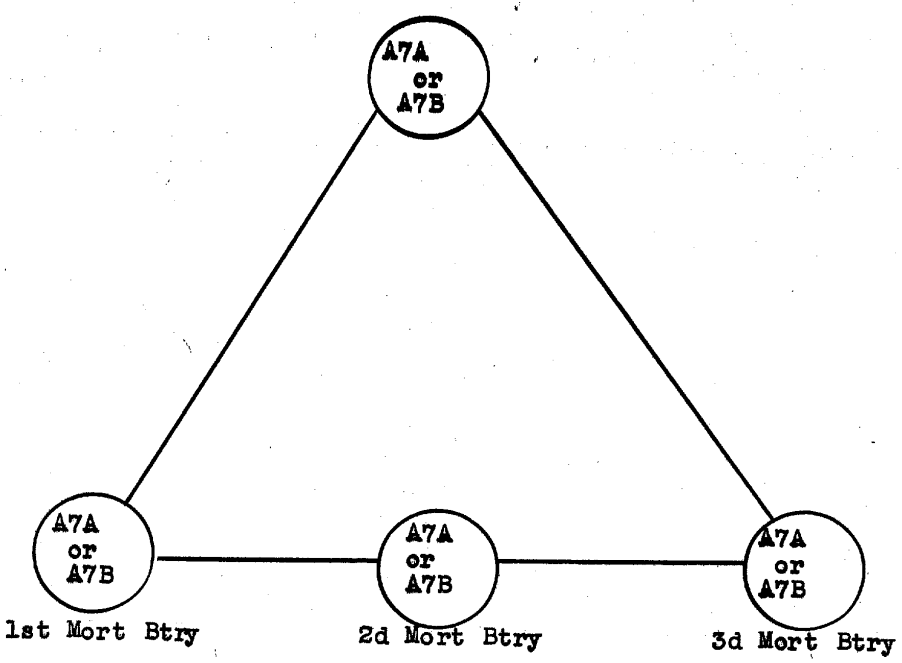
Annex A

Chart III

Organization of Each Mortar Bn Radio Net of the 459th Mortar Regt, 25th Tk Div



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